



Federal Government Dockyard Trades & Labour Council



BULLETIN

August 31, 2017

To All Members

In Support Service Contract (ISSC) for Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships and the Joint Supply Ships.

As you are aware, there was a rally outside the gates of Dockyard Thursday, August 24. This rally was held in response to the announcement that the federal government had awarded a very substantial ISSC (In Support Service Contract) worth up to \$5.2B to Thales, a French defence firm, for long term support and maintenance of the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships and the Joint Supply Ships. This is the contracting of repair and maintenance work that we have been reporting on frequently over the past year or more, reporting on the national battle all DND based Unions were waging in an attempt to save our public service work.

Many of our members (myself included) were off or away on leave, but for those FGDTLC (W) members who did attend we thank you for showing your support. The rally was planned and executed by the Union of National Defence Employees who were holding their Triennial National Convention here in Victoria at the time of the announcement, and we also thank all UNDE and PSAC members for their great turnout.

This contract award came despite the extensive work of this and other National Bargaining Agents/ National Unions to have the government dig deep into the business case of contracting this work out from our public service members. As reported in the Ottawa Citizen last week, our collective workforces on the East and West coasts have long been the safety net for the navy and we believe that this contract award seriously degrades that. We worry that the costs to the Canadian taxpayers will be substantially higher; that this will significantly reduce the knowledge and skills base that our memberships bring to the table; and that it simply does not make sense to turn over the responsibility of maintaining our fleets to a private company whose bottom line is profit.

That all being said, we do not want the membership to believe that all of our traditional work will be contracted out. DND continues to insist that there will be a “fine balance” between public service work and contracted work. In fact, since this ISSC was initially discussed in Ottawa a few years ago the FMF’s have actually gained work back that was originally planned for contracting out, and we hope for much more to come back our way.

This Council will continue to fight for more work for the FMF's, and hopefully the "fine balance" that the employer is seeking can be accomplished.

Union Dues

We believe that the majority of Union dues issues have been resolved, if you believe that your dues deductions are still incorrect please contact the Council office for rectification.

Council is continuing discussions with the employer regarding the way ahead for repayment of dues to members who had been overpaying. There are possible tax implications for repayments, and Public Works is discussing our issues with the CRA (Canadian Revenue Agency) before we can move ahead. As information becomes available we will ensure that the Affiliate Unions and the membership are informed.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of every member to ensure that their Union dues deductions are correct.

Phoenix Issues

For members awaiting any extra pay that is not considered a "Priority 1" payment (Priority 1 is employees not receiving pay) we have been informed that those payments are currently on hold to allow the pay centre to concentrate on retroactive pay for the many newly signed collective agreements in the federal public service, ours included.

Alternate Work Schedule/ Variable Work Schedule (AWS / VWS)

Council has been in discussions with local management regarding the continuation of the AWS schedule. We are hopeful that there will a decision very soon regarding the fall cycle.

CTO Carry-over

Due to the continued issues with Phoenix and CTO, Treasury Board has agreed to suspend the automatic cash out of CTO banks that would be occurring September 30 in accordance with the Ship Repair West collective agreement. Requested cash outs will still be granted.

In Solidarity,

Des Rogers
President
FGDTLC (W)